

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

DALYNNE SINGLETON et al,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CLARK COUNTY et al,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:24-cv-05392-TMC

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO STAY  
DISCOVERY

This case arises from the death of twenty-eight-year-old Shelly Monahan while she was incarcerated as a pretrial detainee in the Clark County Jail. Plaintiffs allege that Ms. Monahan's death was the result of negligence and constitutional violations by Clark County, its medical contractor NaphCare, Inc., and their individual employees. *See generally* Dkt. 29. NaphCare and its employees have moved to dismiss the claims against them (Dkt. 32), and all Defendants have moved to stay discovery until the Court rules on NaphCare's motion to dismiss (Dkt. 34). For the reasons explained below, the motion to stay discovery (Dkt. 34) is DENIED.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Plaintiffs filed this lawsuit on May 22, 2024. Dkt. 1. After seeking additional time to respond, Dkt. 6, NaphCare and its employees moved to dismiss the claims against them or for a more definite statement. Dkt. 9. In response, Plaintiffs requested leave to amend their complaint,

1 which the Court granted. Dkt. 22. Plaintiffs filed their amended complaint on September 19,  
2 2024. Dkt. 29. NaphCare and its employees again moved to dismiss, arguing that Plaintiffs had  
3 failed to join indispensable parties and had failed to state plausible claims for relief under  
4 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Dkt. 32. Clark County and its employees answered the complaint. Dkt. 33. All  
5 Defendants then moved for a stay of discovery until the Court resolves NaphCare's motion to  
6 dismiss. Dkt. 34.

## 7 II. LEGAL STANDARD

8 “[D]istrict courts have the inherent authority to manage their dockets and courtrooms  
9 with a view toward the efficient and expedient resolution of cases.” *Dietz v. Bouldin*, 579 U.S.  
10 40, 47 (2016) (collecting cases). As part of that authority, district courts have “wide discretion in  
11 controlling discovery,” including by staying discovery when warranted. *Little v. City of Seattle*,  
12 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir. 1988).

## 13 III. DISCUSSION

14 As other courts in this district have recognized, “[t]he Ninth Circuit does not appear to  
15 have set forth any rules or standards governing such stays of discovery.” *Hold Security LLC v.*  
16 *Microsoft Corp.*, No. 2:23-cv-899-MJP, 2023 WL 7920434, at \*1 (Nov. 16, 2023). “And many  
17 courts have emphasized that the mere existence of a dispositive motion does not warrant a stay of  
18 discovery.” *Id.* Instead, district courts may look to several factors to guide their exercise of  
19 discretion, such as (1) whether the pending motion could dispose of the entire case; (2) whether  
20 the motion could be decided without additional discovery; (3) what possible damage may result  
21 from granting a stay; (4) what hardship or inequity a party may suffer if required to go forward;  
22 and (5) how a stay might simplify or complicate the issues, proof, and questions of law in the  
23 case. *Subspace Omega, LLC v. Amazon Web Servs., Inc.*, No. 2:23-cv-01772-TL, 2024 WL  
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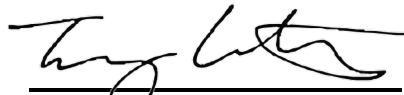
1 4451404, at \*1 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 9, 2024); *see Lockyer v. Mirant Corp.*, 398 F.3d 1098, 1110  
2 (9th Cir. 2005).

3 Here, the Court finds these factors do not support a stay. Only one theory in NaphCare's  
4 motion—that the State of Washington and Western State Hospital are indispensable parties who  
5 cannot be joined due to sovereign immunity—has the potential to dispose of the entire case. *See*  
6 Dkt. 32 at 18. This theory hinges on NaphCare's exaggerated portrayal of the role that the failure  
7 to obtain a competency evaluation for Ms. Monahan plays in Plaintiffs' allegations about the  
8 cause of her death. At this stage of the litigation, it is unlikely that this argument will lead to  
9 dismissal of the entire case. Meanwhile, addressing NaphCare's other arguments about the  
10 sufficiency of the constitutional allegations against each individual defendant takes significant  
11 time, during which a stay of discovery would prevent the parties from developing evidence to  
12 support even the claims and defenses that will likely move forward. Under these circumstances, a  
13 stay of discovery is not justified.

#### 14 IV. CONCLUSION

15 For the reasons explained above, Defendants' motion for a stay of discovery (Dkt. 34) is  
16 DENIED.

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18 Dated this 8th day of November, 2024.

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20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Tiffany M. Cartwright  
22 United States District Judge  
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